

## State of Louisiana

Division of Administration

Office of the Commissioner

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2014

Contact: Douglas Baker, 225-226-0694

## Commissioner Nichols Announces Governmental Efficiencies Management Support Contract

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, Commissioner Kristy Nichols announced the award of the Governmental Efficiencies Management Support (GEMS) contract to the Alvarez & Marsal consulting firm to help identify efficiencies and savings throughout state government. Alvarez & Marsal and their subject matter subcontractors will work together with several State departments and agencies to find these improvements.

The initial broad areas to be assessed across state agencies include but are not limited to: public health, human services, transportation, public safety and justice, revenue and debt collection/enhancement (with no net new taxes), facility and asset management, risk management and public finance, and general management and finance. The consulting team will work closely with project teams in each of these departments to find ways of structuring themselves and functioning more effectively and efficiently. State officials expect the contract to find vast savings and efficiencies that far exceed its \$4 million cost.

Commissioner Nichols said, "Over the past six years we have found ways to streamline government and make it more efficient for our people. This project will continue that mission in order to save taxpayer dollars and improve government services."

Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Kathy Kliebert said, "DHH has always focused on ways to streamline how we do business in order to improve our service to the people of the state and also to save tax dollars. We look forward to working with an outside group that will bring a fresh set of eyes to our operations and can suggest best practices from other states and businesses."

"For the past several years, the Department of Children and Family Services has worked aggressively to streamline our internal and external business practices, from reorganizing the agency's structure to transforming technology to simplifying work processes. With these activities, DCFS has addressed much of the low-hanging fruit and we welcome additional ideas from Alvarez & Marsal to assist going forward," said DCFS Secretary Suzy Sonnier.

The procurement process was begun in August and an RFP was announced on September 26th. After a period of review, Alvarez and Marsal was awarded the contract by the state. They have begun a 90-day government effectiveness and efficiency assessment, focusing on realistic changes that will produce quick, but tangible results that will build upon themselves.

## About Alvarez & Marsal

Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) is a global professional services firm specializing in turnaround and interim management, performance improvement and business advisory services for entities in the private sector and in government. A&M delivers specialist operational, consulting and industry expertise to management and investors seeking to accelerate performance, overcome challenges and maximize value across the corporate and investment lifecycles. Founded in 1983, the firm is known for its distinctive restructuring heritage, hands-on approach and relentless focus on execution and results.